

REMARKS

This Response addresses the issues raised by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed November 15, 2005. Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given this case. In view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks, Applicants feel that all outstanding issues have been addressed and prompt allowance of all remaining claims is respectfully requested.

§102 Rejection

Although the examiner previously indicated allowability of all of the claims of the present invention, the Examiner has now rejected Claims 9-12 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by “new” reference U.S. Patent Application Number 2001/0042118 Miyake et al (“Miyake”). Specifically, the examiner posited that Miyake teaches “a computer implemented system for visualizing, from topology data, a multi-layer topology schematic including a [plurality of] (*sic*) view levels,” and the Examiner went on to read the language of the claims onto the specification of Miyake. In fact, the Examiner appears to have exceeded the teachings of Miyake in his arguments, and Applicants respectfully request that Examiner re-institute the proper allowability of these claims.

The present invention, as claimed, includes a system and methods for visualizing a multi-layer schematic topology including the adaptability of displaying a wide variety of components at a plurality of different view levels. As a user selects a component and requests a change in view level, the system of the present invention can accommodate that task because the databases of the present invention maintain connection and relation data between components at different view levels.

However, the present invention *also* includes partial domain management units (*see, e.g.,* Claim 9) prepared for each of a plurality of partial domains defined in the topology schematic. Importantly, the connection lines and relationships between various components are maintained not only within each partial domain, but also across all of the different partial domains. Miyake, on the other hand, represents only a single “partial domain” according to the present invention. Miyake, therefore, teaches the use of connection and relationship data within a single partial domain, but the present invention is directed to maintaining and utilizing this connection and relation data between components in different partial domains.

The independent claims have been amended herein to more particularly point out this concept and more clearly distinguish the present invention from Miyake and the other cited

prior art. For example, Claim 9 now specifically states that "said connection lines are defined between components in different partial domains," and Claim 10 specifically states that "said distinct correspondence between components is defined between components in different partial domains." Although Applicants believe that this distinction was already within the scope of the claims of the present application, Applicants have made these amendments in the interests of bringing the present prosecution to a successful conclusion.

In an unrelated matter, the dependency of Claims 11 and 12 has been corrected to properly depend from Claim 9, instead of Claim 10.

Conclusion

The above remarks address each and every concern raised by the Examiner in the Office Action. Applicants believe that all remaining claims of the present invention are now in condition for final allowance. If the Examiner feels that any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's attorney at the contact information below.

Respectfully submitted,

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